



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
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# PRESS RELEASE

## **Better Assessment Means Better Education**

In the 21st century, there's a need to change the concept of "learning for the sake of gaining knowledge" into "learning for the sake of gaining skills for learning." This is the message from the two-day international conference on "Assessment for Learning in the 21st Century" held in Skopje 23-24 May. Almost 200 participants attended the conference, organized by the USAID Primary Education Project (PEP) in collaboration with the Macedonian Civic Education Center.

"Contemporary education is changing the focus from assessment **of** learning into assessment **for** learning," said USAID Senior Education Specialist, Lela Jakovlevska. "This means there should be more of a focus on learning as a process, on providing feedback to students and parents, and not only focusing on the end result."

PEP works to improve the existing school-based assessment in order to increase the quality of teaching and learning, contributing to optimal individual student progress. The project supports development of national standards for school-based assessment, and has trained some 10,000 teachers to meet those standards, created resources to support formative assessment, and introduced a code of assessment ethics to schools.

### NOTE TO EDITORS:

The main focus of the USAID Primary Education Project is to improve the quality of math and science education and increase access to and use of information technology in all primary schools in Macedonia. The project also supports school renovations that create better learning environments and promotes decentralization of school facilities to municipal governments.

The American people, through USAID, have invested over \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.